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December 15, 2003

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of Yoshihiro KATSUMATA and Hideya KINOSHITA
INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER
Assignee: **BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION**
Our Ref: Q78821

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 09/987,077 (Confirmation No. 6412) filed November 13, 2001 of Yoshihiro KATSUMATA and Hideya KINOSHITA, entitled INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER, which is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,337,354.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and abstract, a copy of the Declaration as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment and a form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) listing references cited by applicant and/or the examiner during prosecution of the parent applications.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1711.

The entire disclosures of the parent applications, application numbers 09/987,077 and 09/630,716, filed November 13, 2001 and August 2, 2000, respectively, are considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying divisional application and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Foreign Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Japan	11-219465	August 3, 1999
Japan	11-219466	August 3, 1999

The priority documents were filed in parent Application No. 09/630716.



Transmittal Letter For:
Divisional Application of Application No. 09/987,077
Page 2

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

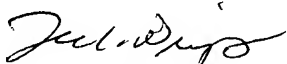
Total claims	<u>28</u>	-	20	=	<u>8</u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u>\$144.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	3	=	<u> </u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
Base Fee									<u>\$770.00</u>
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee									<u>\$290.00</u>
TOTAL FILING FEE									<u>\$1,204.00</u>

A check for the statutory fee of **\$1,204.00** is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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